A CRAZY DESI FAMILY

A Crazy Desi Family

By Ek Noor

(Fiction)

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Author's Note

This play critiques patriarchy, a global system shaping families across cultures. Its purpose is not to stigmatise any community but to illuminate how silence, honour, and gender inequality cause harm in many societies. This play is a work of fiction that uses satire and exaggeration to explore harmful family patterns found in some communities. It does not represent all Punjabis or any specific individuals. Its purpose is to encourage reflection, not to offend. This play should not be used to stereotype or stigmatise any community; its themes reflect universal patriarchal patterns found across cultures.

The harmful patterns depicted here can be found in many communities , South Asian, European, African, and Western, wherever patriarchal values dominate

Disclaimer

This is a work of fiction. Any resemblance to real people, families, or places is purely coincidental. It should not be read as a depiction of any real community, nor as commentary on an ethnic or religious group.

Content Warning

This play contains domestic violence, sexual violence, emotional abuse, suicide, homophobia, mental health struggles, and harmful cultural attitudes.

Characters

Sindy (female):	Wife of Bobby and daughter-in-law of Jeeto and Pally
Bobby (male):	Husband of Sindy
Jeeto (female):	Mother of Bobby, mother-in law of Sindy
Pally (male):	Father of Bobby, father-in law of Sindy
Satty (male):	Brother of Bobby, and bother-in-law of Sindy
Simmy (female):	Daughter of Bobby and Sindy
Harry (male):	Son of Bobby and Sindy
Sonia (female):	Wife of Harry (She is on the large side and plain looking.)
Tony (male):	Son of Harry and Sonia
Shato (female):	Distant relative (aunty) of Bobby. She does not age and wears the same dowdy clothes through out the play. (Chief minister of this Subculture.)
Bal (female):	Distant relative (aunty) of Bobby. She does not age and wears the same dowdy clothes through out the play. (Deputy Chief minister of this Subculture.)

The terms “Beta” is an endearment term for a younger male. “”Beti” is an endearment term for a younger female. Somewhat like dear or darling.

ACT 1

Scene 1

(Year 1982. In a through lounge of a 1930s semi in UK. Bobby and Sindy are sitting on dining chairs in the middle of the room. They are in bride and groom attire. On their laps is a red scarf. There are many people in the room. In turns, they walk to the couple and place paper currency notes on the scarf and then gently and affectionately touch the couple’s heads. Women are at one end of the room and the men at the other end. There are plenty of snacks on the table. People are helping themselves and there is background chit chat. At the men’s end of the room, there is a coffee table with glasses and opened bottles of spirits, mainly scotch.)

Shato: Jeeto, your eldest son, Bobby is now married to Sindy. Oh look at them! They make such a lovely couple. May god bless them! (*Shato turns towards Jeeto*) Jeeto, your second son, Satty’s turn is next. *(Shato turns*

towards Bal). Bal, you know your sister's sister-in-law's, uncle's grand daughter, she will be perfect for our Satty!

Bal: You mean Mato?

Shato: Haa! Yes!

Bal: Mato has already been promised to, you know those people in village Cantipur. The chief of that village. She is engaged to his brother in law's sister's son!

Shato: What about Seeto?

Bal: Do you mean Mindy's cousin brother's uncles daughter from Humiana village?

Shato: Haa! Yes!

Bal: She is nine years older than Satty.

Shato: So what? Her family are well off and anyway people are living longer these days.

Bal: Oh! Did you know she is divorced? She was married for three years and didn't produce a son!

Shato: Hai! Hai! Good job you told me. She won't do. What about, you know, Minder in Coventry, his niece, what's her name? Haa! Polly!

Bal: I don't think that will work because her older sister is still not married. Anyway, they want a groom from back home.

Shato: Hmmm. What about your brother's, sister-in-law's, cousin brother's daughter, the one who lives in Mitisar village.

Bal: Haa! That might work. I will take the proposal to them and let's see.

(Loud music, "Bhabiye Ni Bhabiye" (chorus) by Alaap. Men jump up and start dancing at their end of the room, and are drunk. Women start dancing at their end of the room. After a few minutes, in order to illustrate the electric happy atmosphere, the scene ends.)

Scene 2

(Next day in the lounge, Jeeto and Sindy are clearing the table)

Jeeto: Sindy Beti, did you sleep ok?

Sindy: My mother told me that now I am married, I should call you Mummy and his dad, Daddy?

Jeeto: Yes Beti. Your mother has instructed you well in our ways. These are our traditions.

Sindy: Mummy, you go and sit down and relax and I will tidy up.

Jeeto: Beti, it is good to know your mother brought you up well. Hai! Hai! my knees are hurting. I need a daughter-in-law who can now take over all the house chores. Hai! Hai! My shoulder also hurts.

Sindy: After I have tidied, I will massage your shoulders and legs.

Jeeto: You are a good Beti. After you tidy up and massage my legs and shoulders, there are lots of clothes that need ironing. After that I will take you to the shops to buy vegetables for the evening meal. From now on, all the chores are yours Beti.

(Jeeto leaves the room and Sindy tidys the table. Jeeto renters the room).

Jeeto: Beti, in this country, we all work and do all the house chores. I have spoken with Deeta. He has a cleaning company. Tomorrow he will come with his van in the morning at quarter past 6. He will bring you back at 2 in the afternoon after work. You will have plenty of time to do all the house chores.

Sindy: Acha! OK mummy.

Jeeto: Beti, now get me a cup of Chai.

(Sindy leaves the room, and the scene ends.)

Scene 3

(No one is at home and Sindy is ironing in the lounge. It is 5:30pm and has just finished cooking the curries. She will make chapatis/rotis as and when they are needed just before anyone eats, so they are eaten warm. Bobby enters the room.)

Sindy: *(Sindy is ironing clothes)* Hello ji! I have cooked the curries. Shall I make rotis now?

Bobby: *(Bobby's body language is aggressive)* No! When I say no! I mean no!

(Sindy feels frightened and lowers her eyes.)

Bobby: Where is my blue shirt?

Sindy: Ji, it hasn't been washed.

Bobby: Why hasn't it been washed? What do you do all day, you imbecile?

Sindy: Ji, I returned from work at 3, then went shopping and then cooked and cleaned…

Bobby: I am not interested in your lazy excuses! I want that shirt now!

(Bobby gets very angry, his anger is out of control and he hits Sindy.)

Sindy: Ji! Ji! Please no! No! No! *(Bobby hits her again and she runs out of the room sobbing)*

Bobby: *(Grabs one of the ironed shirts and puts it on and mumbles to himself in anger)* I will be late to the pub and Sandra is waiting for me and will get annoyed with me! *(he leaves the room and you hear the front door bang!)*.

(A few seconds later Sindy returns to the room looking visibly upset and is crying quietly. Jeeto enters the room.)

Jeeto: Hai! Hai! My knees! *(Sits down.)* Beti make me a cup of Chai.

(Sindy leaves the room.)

Jeeto: *(looks at the pile of unironed clothes and mumbles)* Hasn't she finished ironing? What has she been doing all afternoon?

(Sindy walks in with a cup of tea and hands it to Jeeto. Jeeto looks at her face.)

Jeeto: Are you alright?

Sindy: Mummy, mummy *(starts sobbing)*

Jeeto: Beti sit down with me. What's the matter?

Sindy: Mummy, mummy, your son hit me.

Jeeto: There must have been a reason?

Sindy: Mummy, mummy, he wanted the blue shirt that hadn't been washed yet.

Jeeto: Look Beti, this is our lot. We have to accept it. Bobby's daddy also hits me. I stay silent because what is the point. It is what it is. Look here Beti, you must not tell anyone about it. You see Beti, it will ruin the family's good reputation. You are pregnant and will be a mother soon. We have to think about our next generation. If people find out, then our family reputation will be effected. What will people say? Think about the next generation. Look Beti, my father also used to beat my mother. This is just how it is. Now wipe your tears. Be a good Beti, and fetch me my dinner. *(Making kissing sounds.)* Good Beti, go and make the rotis.

(Sindy wipes her tears and leaves the room and the scene ends.)

Scene 4

(In the lounge, Pally (Bobby's father, Sindy's father-in-law) is sitting and reading a newspaper. Satty (Bobby's brother, Sindy's brother-in-law) is wearing headphones and is playing a computer game. Sindy walks into the room with a cup of tea and takes it to Pally.)

Pally: Sindy beti. Put the cup of tea on the coffee table. *(Sindy places it on the coffee table.)*

Sindy: I will take the ironed clothes and put them away upstairs. If you need me, call me.

(Sindy collects the ironed clothes and leaves the room. Pally drinks his tea and leaves the room)

(This what the audience hear.)

Sindy: Daddy! Daddy! No! No! Don't touch me. *(She screams several times).*

Pally: Shut up and lie down.

Sindy: *(You hear Sindy sobbing, crying.)* No! No! Hai! Hai! No! *(You hear a lot of banging.)* Noooooooooooooooooooo!

(A few moments later you hear the front door bang! Satty takes his headphones off. Switches the computer off and leaves the room. You hear the front door bang!.)

(The room is silent for a few moments to illustrate the gravity of the situation.)

(Jeeto walks in and shouts)

Jeeto: Sindy Beti, fetch me some tea.

(Sindy walks into the room looking dishevelled. Messy hair, with her dress torn. Jeeto looks at her and is shocked.)

Jeeto: Beti come and sit here. *(Sindy is sobbing and crying and sits next to Jeeto. Jeeto puts her arms around Sindy and tries to calm her.)*

Jeeto: Was it Satty?

(Sindy shakes her head to indicate no)

Jeeto: Oh I see. *(Jeeto pats Sindy's head and back to comfort Sindy.)*

Jeeto: Look Beti, sometimes these things happen. They are men. Listen Beti. You know the child you are carrying is Bobby's. Just bury this here, right now! Put it behind you. Listen Beti, don't tell anyone about it. We have a good reputation, Don't tarnish our reputation. What will people say? Think about the child you are carrying. You are a good Beti. Don't worry about making chai for me. I can do that. Beti, you go and take a bath and relax. *(Makes kissing sounds).* Beti go go, you are a good girl.

(Sindy leaves the room)

Scene 5

(Sindy with her new baby girl, Jeeto, Shato and Bal are in the lounge)

Jeeto: Sindy has had a baby girl.

Shato: Oh dear *(she sighs).* Maybe, Sindy's next baby will be a boy. Jeeto don't worry too much.

Bal: What have you named her?

Jeeto: Simmy.

Shato: Oh never mind Jeeto, what has happened has happened. Leave it in God's hands.

(Sindy is tearful and wipes her eyes)

Scene 6

(The lounge is full of people. Men at one end and women at the other end. Plenty of snacks on the table. The coffee table near the men has bottles of spirits and mostly scotch. It is a party atmosphere. Men are drinking and women are mumbling gossip.)

Shato: Jeeto! Congratulations! Bobby and Sindy have had a boy!

Jeeto: Congratulations to you too!

Shato: How wonderful! Such good news! Awww look at him *(Shato moves towards Sindy holding the baby)*. He looks just like his father Bobby. What have you named him?

Pally: *(Pally shouts)* Harry!

Shato: Lovely name!

(Loud music, "Nach Lai Haan Diye" (chorus) by Heera. People stand up and start dancing. Men at one end of room and women at the other. It is a joyous time. Some of the men a bit tipsy. Dance for a few minutes to emphasize great happiness.)

Scene 7

(Jeeto, Shato and Bal are in the lounge.)

Shato: You said you have a problem, what is it?

Jeeto: *(Jeeto starts sobbing)*. I am ruined! Yes ruined! Hai! Hai! Ruined!

Bal: Stop sobbing Jeeto, tell us what has happened?

(Shato calms Jeeto by stroking her back gently and Jeeto stops crying.)

Jeeto: It's Satty! I tell you, it is that college! He knows his rights and is out of control!

Shato: Why? What's happened?

Jeeto: Satty told me he is gay. Yes gay! Hai! Hai! Gay!

Bal: What's wrong with that. Surely it is good he is gay. You know happy!

Jeeto: No! No! Not happy, He is gay! Gay! Gay! It is these goras, you know these white people! They are ruining all our lives. Hai! Hai! Why did I come to this country?

Bal: What do you mean? I don't understand?

Jeeto: He doesn't want to get married and have children. Hai! Hai! What am I to do?

Bal: Let him study first. You don't need to find a bride for him yet?

Jeeto: Hai! Hai! How to explain this to you? He never wants to get married to a girl?

Bal: Oh no! What will people say?

Shato: Calm down Jeeto! You have several options. We could ask Jinder's sister-in-law, what's her name…...ha! Yes! Mindy. She knows black magic. We can try black magic.

Bal: I don't think that will work?

Shato: Why not?

Jeeto: Satty has become like the goras, you know these white people.

Shato: We can ask his cousins to put pressure on him. If he still refuses to change, ask them to beat him up!

Bal: For that to happen, we will have to tell his uncles and aunties too.

Jeeto: No! No! I don't want them to know. It will bring shame on us.

Shato: Hmm… I see what what you mean. Take him back home, marry him to a backward girl. You can show everyone the photographs of the ceremony. Never invite the girl here!

Jeeto: People will talk and ask where is the new bride? What will I say?

Bal: I see what you mean!

Shato: In that case, invite the girl here. Keep her as a maid. If she makes trouble, get Satty to divorce her. Tell people, the reason for the divorce is that she is barren. You know, she can't have children. People will buy that excuse!

Bal: Won't that ruin the girl's life and her future prospects?

Shato: That is not our problem! We will have saved Jeeto's good reputation and solved her problem. Jeeto, ask for a lot of gold as dowry, that way Jeeto will also get richer! Winners! Winners!

ACT 2

Scene 1

(It is 2010. Simmy (Sindy's daughter) and Sindy are sitting in the lounge looking very sad, and the doorbell rings. Sindy goes and opens the door. Shato and Bal walk into the room. Sindy gestures them to sit.)

Shato: Simmy, how is your husband?

Simmy: *(Looking very depressed only shakes her head to indicate no)* I don't know what to say?

Shato: What do you mean? Look here Simmy, once you are married you must stay with your husband no matter what?

Simmy: *(Simmy looks visibly upset and is wipes her tears.)*

Sindy: Yes, I told her the same. What will people say?

Bal: Yes! Yes! What will people say?

Simmy: *(Sobs!)* He has divorced me. *(Sobs!)*

Shato: You must have done something wrong?

Simmy: *(Sobs!)* He and his family don't want me any more. *(Sobs!)*

Shato: Look here Simmy, you have blackened your face and brought shame upon yourself! Go and beg them to take you back.

Simmy: *(Sobs!)* How to tell you this. *(Sobs! Sobs!)* He is gay. *(Sobs!)*

Shato: So what? That is your home now!

Simmy: *(Sobs!)* They kicked me out. I have no where to go *(Sobs!)*

Bal: Oh, I see, what will people say?

Simmy: *(Frustrated voice)* This is so unfair! You all pressurised me to marry him! You all told me I will bring shame on the family if I didn't get married! Under your pressure I caved in and got married. How can you do this to me? Why? Why? Why is, what people will say more important than my suffering? Why? *(Sobs!)*

Shato: Look Beti, we only wanted the best for you. What has happened is god's will.

Bal: Beti, what will people say is very important. How will your mother show her face in the community? Do you want your mother to hold her head in shame?

Simmy: *(Sobs!)* I can no longer think straight! Please let me stay here. I will stay in the house and not go out. I won't tell anyone. I have no where else to go. Please let me stay here. *(Sobs!)*

Bal: People will find out.

Simmy: *(Sobs!)* I can't think straight. Please! Please! I can't think straight! I can't believe this is happening to me. I don't want to live any longer. *(Sobs!)* I want to die. I can't think straight. *(Sobs!)* I can't think any more! I can't think straight! My life is over. *(Sobs!)*. I can't think any more! *(Sobs!)*

Shato: Yes, people will find out.

Bal: Beti, now you are divorced, you are damaged goods.

Shato: Beti, no one is going to marry a divorcee. You are now second hand goods!

Bal: May be an older man or another divorced man might?

Shato: Look here Bal, why would a divorced or an older man take a damaged, second hand wife? After all, he can get a young and fresh wife?

Bal: Yes, you have a point.

Sindy: May be, we have to come to terms with the fact, she never leaves the house.

Shato: Ha! Yes!

Bal: Ha! Yes!

(Simmy is sobbing...)

Scene 2

(The Bell rings, Sindy, Shato and Bal walk into the lounge and sit down.)

Shato: What happened to your ex- sister-in-law, you know Satty, who is gay, his wife?

Sindy: After Satty was made to divorce her, she went to stay with her aunty up north. I heard she is "pagal", you know, mad. I heard she is in a mental health hospital.

Shato: Good job your mother-in-law, I mean Jeeto, made Satty divorce her. She is defective goods.

Bal: Where is Simmy?

Sindy: How to tell you this? *(Sindy is tearful.)* God has taken her after she took her life.

Shato: Oh! Look Sindy. Wipe your tears. She has completed her life. She is with god now.

Bal: Now you won't have to worry about "what will people say".

Shato: Bal is right. Was there a funeral?

Sindy: It was a hush, hush funeral. No one attended it. We didn't know what to say to people.

Shato: Good, this problem is now solved! Keep it quiet. If anyone asks, say you don't know or err, you are not sure but you think she has gone back home.

Bal: People have short memories. They will soon forget! Out of sight and out of mind!

Shato: Yes! Bal is right. Put this problem behind you and focus on getting Harry married! After all this misery, you need a happy event!

Scene 3

(It is 2011. Harry weds Sonia. There is a banner on the wall saying "Harry weds Sonia". They are in the lounge with lots of people mingling. Plenty of snacks on the table. Well dressed couples in elegant attire, sipping drinks. Harry and Sonia are sitting together on dining chairs. A bunch of aunties are sitting together and gossiping.)

Bal: The bride is a bit plain looking. What's her name?

Shato: Sonia! She is the daughter of Jessie, you know the owner that... What is the name? Ha! Chapatti cash and carry. You know the one I mean.

Bal: Oh! Acha! That one!

Shato: Don't look at her looks. Look! She is from a well off family. Well, even more importantly, she is a plaaaaastic surgeon! Then again, Harry is also a doctor. They will make a good couple!

Bal: Did you say, a plaaaastic surgeon?

Shato: Ha! Yes!

Bal: She will earn loads of money for Sindy?

Shato: Yes. Sindy told me she is going to do cosmetic surgery. You know, do fillers and botox etc. etc. You know that...what's her name? Ah! Yes! Binder! Well. Binder's son is a cosmetic dentist and the daughter-in-law does cosmetic surgery. Mindy was telling me that they have 8 practices. They are minting money. Binder looks after their children and her son and daughter-in-law work until 7pm. They are going to move to Surbury. You know the houses in Surbury cost more than 3 million.

Bal: How much? Did you say 3 million?

Shato: Ha! Yes! 3 Million! The bride might be a bit plain looking, but she will make lots of money for Sindy. Sindy told me she can't wait to move to Surbury.

Bal: Harry drives a very big and powerful Mercedes.

Shato: Well! Sonia, the bride, drives the biggest Porche you can buy.

(Loud music "Aaja Nachle" (chorus) by Bally Sagoo. People start dancing and there is no gender segregation. The music plays for a while to illustrate it is a happy and joyous occasion.)

Scene 4

(In the lounge. It is a party. Sonia is sitting on a dining chair, holding a baby, On the table are snacks and drinks. Couples are chatting and sipping drinks. Aunties are sitting in a corner and gossiping.)

Bal: I am so happy for Sindy that Harry and Sonia have had a baby boy. What have they named him?

Shato: Tony! Sindy told me, she will look after the baby so Sonia can go back to work soon! Sindy will teach the boy our ways and traditions. It is important we don't lose our culture. No?

Bal: Yes! You are right! It is important the next generation know who they are. Know our ways and traditions.

Shato: Yes! We need to teach them to respect their elders so we can use our power to control them! It is important they know who they are. Know our ways and traditions. If we don't control them and keep an eye on them, they will lose our culture and become like the goras, you know, these white people.

Bal: Yes! Yes! They must follow our ways! Our culture and traditions are very important. Teach them to respect their elders, so they can be controlled. Yes!

(Shato walks towards Sonia)

Shato: Congratulations! Congratulations! *(makes kissing sounds towards the baby)* Tony! Tony! Tony! You lovely boy. Awwww he looks just like Harry!

(Loud music starts. It is "Hey Jamalo, Tootak Tootak Tootiya" (chorus) by Malkit Singh & Golden Star. People start dancing. After a few moments the scene ends. It illustrates a joyous occasion.)

Scene 5

(They are in the large lounge of their big detached Surbury house. The furniture is stacked to one end of the room. It is good quality lounge furniture like leather settee etc. with no pictures on the wall. There are gold coloured or brass tacky ornaments. There is a banner hanging saying "Happy 14th Birthday Tony". In the middle of the room, there is a fine looking dining table with plenty of snacks and drinks.)

Sindy: Harry come here!

(Harry enters the room, tucking his shirt into his trousers)

Harry: Yes?

Sindy: Shhhh, speak quietly. Sonia told me that you are still beating her?

Harry: Well! Well! I can't help it. I become so frustrated and it just happens.

Sindy: Look here Harry Beta. I know you saw your father beat me. Beta, try and control yourself. I keep pacifying Sonia, but now she is saying she has had enough. Sonia is a good Beti and hasn't told anyone to save our good reputation. Betaaaa, we have big loans, especially on this house. She was saying to me, she has had enough. Look Betaaaa, try and understand, we need her to earn the money to pay back the loans. You understand that don't you Betaaaaa?

Harry: Hmmm...

(The door bell rings.)

Sindy: Shhh acha! Okay Beta.

(Several couples enter the room dressed in fine clothes, followed by Shato.)

Harry: Welcome!

Sindy: Welcome ji!

Shato: Wow! Sindy! Such a big house! Wow! Such good furniture. It is a palace! Surbury is full of these palaces! Sindy, you have made it, thanks to our culture of hard work, competitive spirit, and our wonderful values and traditions!

(Door bell rings and more well dressed people enter the room followed by Bal.)

Harry: Welcome!

Sindy: Welcome ji!

(There is a lot of chit chatting and mingling, Shato and Bal take some soft drinks and go and sit in the aunties corner on plush dining chairs.)

Shato: Look how our values bring success.

Bal: Yes, they bring success.

Shato: It is only our culture, its values and traditions, the way forward.

Bal: Yes. You are right. It is our culture, values and tradition that lead to success!

Shato: To achieve this kind of success and greatness, we must dictate our control and power on further generations!

Bal: Yes, you are right, we must exercise power and control! Our culture, traditions are the best!

(Tony enters the room smiling.)

Shato: *(shouts)* Look at our handsome Tony!

Harry: Happy birthday Tonyyyyyy!

(People in the room start clapping.)

(The loud music starts. It is "Apna Sangeet Vaje Apna Sangeet" (chorus) by Apna Sangeet.

The People start dancing. It is happy, joyous time. The track is played to convey the feeling of happiness!)

Scene 6

(Sindy, Shato and Bal are sitting in Sindy's Surbury lounge.)

Shato: I can't get over how beautiful your house and the area is. Sindy you truly make us proud!

Bal: Yes Sindy, you have done very well. Well done Sindy.

Sindy: It took a lot of hard work.

Shato: You have raised Tony well and taught him our culture and values. He knows he must respect his elders so we can use our power and control him.

Bal: Yes, the next generation must accept our culture and values.

Sindy: Tony is closer to me than his mother.

Shato: That is good! After all you raised him. Well done!

Sindy: Don't speak too loudly, my cleaner is upstairs cleaning the house. She comes two days a week. Her legal status is not quite right. So I give her two days. She is very cheap to employ. It gives her some money to live on. Given her legal status, she is no trouble.

Bal: Yes, I also have a cleaner like that.

Shato: Yes, so do I. We have to help them, we know they can't get proper jobs and earn a real wage.

Sindy: She is a very good cook. Look (points at her stomach)! I eat and eat, and I am putting on weight. I now go the gym.

Bal: I too! I go to the gym and attend aerobics classes. Where do you go Sindy?

Sindy: I go to that posh country club. You know the one near the roundabout.

Bal: Wow! You mean Surbury Golf and Country Club?

Sindy: Yes! It is very posh. They have several swimming pools, restaurants, gyms, tennis courts etc.etc. The membership fees are very expensive. You see it is really posh. A lot of these goras. you know, white people go there. I am taking swimming classes.

Shato: Wow! Sindy, you have really made it! I go to the local gym on the High St.

Bal: I should go more often. Hmmmm.

Shato: Sindy, on the phone you said Harry and Sonia's relationship is on the rocks?

Sindy: Yes, they just aren't getting along.

Shato: Have you paid off the loans?

Sindy: Almost.

Shato: Then let her go. There are plenty more fish in the sea. Our Harry is handsome. There is no shortage of women.

Bal: I know of a woman. She is educated and very nice. She is sooooo nice that even when you say hurtful things to her, she never speaks back. She has the qualities that a good daughter-in-law should have. She is married to a goraaaaa, you know a white guy.

Shato: Well she must have married this gora; the white guy, because he had money. These days, our men have money and education. There is no need for her to remain with that gora, you know, the white guy. We must rescue her. After all, if our women start doing what she is doing. We won't have any women left. Our men know, our women must not escape from our great culture.

Sindy: How old is she?

Bal: I think she is over 60.

Sindy: Is it Neeti?

Bal: Ha! Yes!

Shato: I know who you mean.

Sindy: She is almost my age? Over twenty years older than Harry?

Shato: Look Sindy, These days some of our women go with black men. She is rich and very posh. You now live in Surbury, in this house. She will teach you how to live like posh people.

Sindy: Oh! I see. I want to look posh. She is still a bit old.

Shato: Sindy, people are living longer these days. It is even better, if she doesn't live long, when she dies, all her wealth will become yours and Harry's. You can then find another.

Sindy: Hmmmm, yes! Yes! I see what you mean.

Shato: It is important we rescue such women and bring them back into our culture and control.

Bal: I don't think she will leave her husband.

Shato: What do you mean she will not leave her husband and return to our great culture? We will send our men to intimidate her. She will soon realise that she must return to our culture for her safety. After all, it is only we people who look after the women.

Bal: I am not sure?

Shato: We have our ways to rescue such women. I know, I will speak to Sunny. He is a community leader in that area. He is very well connected. These men will do whatever Sunny says. Sunny is a leader after all. He will keeps tabs on her and send our men too, to do so. We have our ways *(She giggles)*.

Scene 7

(In the Surbury house lounge. The bell rings, Shato, Bal walk in followed by Sindy. Sindy gestures Shato and Bal to sit and then sits down looking very sad.)

Shato: On the phone, you said you need help? What is it? Why are you so sad?

Sindy: *(Looking sad.)* Sonia is suffering with depression. She won't leave. She says her parents have told her to stay here. She is very confused.

Bal: Yes! Sonia can't go back to her parents. If she does, then her parents will have the problem of "what will people say"?

Sindy: Sonia, doesn't do much work. The income has dropped. She is spending a lot of money on therapies.

Bal: What is this theraaaapeeee?

Sindy: I don't really understand what it is. She is a plaaastic surgeon and it is something medical.

Bal: What are you going to do about the drop in income?

Sindy: Shato, when I met you last, you told me about that woman in her 60s with monies. What is the latest?

Shato: Hmmmm, I don't know? I will speak with that community leader, what's his name, yes, Sunny.

Bal: But Sonia is still here and Harry is not divorced?

Shato: Well yes, but we can still get Harry to woo and charm the woman. Ball her over and get her to divorce that gora, you know the white guy. On the day of the wedding we can substitute for Harry, you know replace him with Raj.

Bal: Which Raj? Do you that taxi driver who has a problem with his legal status to stay?

Shato: Yes that Raj.

Bal: Suppose she realises it is not Harry?

Shato: She won't know before the ceremony because of all that head gear the groom will be wearing. Once the wedding ceremony is over, then Bob's you uncle! Job done and done deal!

Bal: Do you think that will work?

Shato: Of course! This way we will rescue that woman, Raj will get legal status to stay. Sindy can come to a financial arrangement with Raj as to get her wealth. Everyone will be a winner!

Bal: I think we have too much stress living in this country. It is affecting our health.

Shato: These goras, you know these white people are affecting our health.

Sindy: Harry was telling me that some people are asking for gender change?

Bal: I heard that too.

Shato: What is wrong with how god has made them? Hai! Hai! These goras, you know these white people, are now going beyond limit! It is these goraas, you know these white people, who are causing us stress! You don't hear any one complain in our community, do you? Our culture is the best!

Bal: Yes! No one complains in our culture! Our culture is the best and the way forward!

Shato: Bal, Mindo's sister has cancer. If you go to their house, don't eat anything at their house. You don't want to catch it acha! OK!

Bal: Acha! OK!

Sindy: Harry was saying our people are suffering from depression, mental health issues, heart disease, diabetes, high blood pressure etc. etc. etc. Is it all to do with stress? Our people also have drink problems, you know alcohol! He also told me there is drug problem in our community. Is it all to do with stress caused by living in this country!?

Shato: Yes, Sindy, it is! It is all because of these gora people, you know these white people. They are giving us too much stress!

Bal and Shato: Stress! Stress! Stress!

Final Scene

(This a scene raises questions and please oblige.)

Is there anything wrong with the family?